

Lana Gordon, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Barbara Hersh: 785-296-0901  
barbara.hersh@dol.ks.gov

**Legislation Gives KDOL Power to Continue Crackdown on Unemployment Fraud**

**TOPEKA, Kan.** - House Bill 2105, signed by the Governor today, contains several provisions that will enable the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) to better investigate unemployment fraud and will provide harsher penalties for fraud and abuse.

Under current law, individuals who commit unemployment fraud are disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits for only one year. The anti-fraud provisions of the bill will increase the period of disqualification to five years and will allow KDOL to impose a 25 percent civil penalty on those who commit fraud. HB 2015, also empowers the Secretary of Labor to better recover overpayments caused by fraud by giving KDOL civil lien and levy authority.

"The increase of disqualification to five years and the 25 percent civil penalty will make the Kansas law one of the toughest on unemployment fraud in the country," said Lana Gordon, Secretary of Labor.

The Secretary of Labor is now empowered to appoint certified law enforcement officers to investigate unemployment fraud and to assist in investigations of human trafficking, tax evasion and other similar criminal enterprises.

For more information on UI fraud and abuse go to <http://www.dol.ks.gov/UI/Fraud.aspx> .

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